

Little-known entomological literature – 9

In 1980, R. B. Freeman published his *British natural history books 1495-1900; a handlist*. Since then I, and others, have come across many books which, for one reason or another, had escaped his notice, quite a few of which have been entirely or substantially of entomological content. It is perhaps not surprising that a title such as *A sister's stories* should have been omitted as the title gives no intimation of the theme of the contents, which in this case (see below) is entirely entomological and it is only by examining the book that one can tell. Searching the older catalogues in the major libraries is not only no easy task, as I well know, but will only turn up natural history items with obvious titles to the subject matter and even then it is easy to overlook some. It is the assiduous visiting and browsing the shelves of bookshops, and pouring over dealers' catalogues that turns up the gems.

The list below is not comprehensive by any means; as it is only of books omitted by Freeman, which over the years have come into my library. It does not, therefore, include any mention of later or earlier editions of the work. It does include some that he may have deliberately excluded according to his criteria for inclusion. There are, however, inconsistencies about some of his choices. Those he excluded are, amongst others, stated to be any "of direct practical application to man's life". A browse through some such titles reveals that while they do indeed include, say, "pest control" they also include, which may be the major content, "natural history" often detailing life-histories and foodplants. One such, for instance is George Newport's account of *Athalia centifoliae* (see below). Be that as it may, I feel that readers would like some of them at least, recorded here.

In the list below, while following the convention of quoting the size of the book in the old imperial form (e.g. 8vo.) I have added the actual size in millimetres as this is far more accurate for in various catalogues and descriptions I have seen the same book being described as sm. 8vo.; 16mo., and 12mo. the actual size being 135 × 105mm. While many of the books below are first editions this is not always clear, nor have I tracked down the date of publication of some undated (nd) items, but give an approximate date from other evidence. Where the title leaves the theme of the contents unclear I have briefly given my honest opinion of them; for others the contents are obvious.

ADAMSON, C. H. E., *Catalogue of butterflies collected in Burmah by Major C. H. E. Adamson, Madras Staff Corps*. Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Printed by John Bell and Co. 1889. 8vo. [220 × 140] pp 43.

A. LADY, *Caroline and her mother: or, familiar conversations for children*. Principally upon entomological subjects. London. J. Hatchard and Son 1827. sm. 8vo. [180 × 110] pp 245. A typical "conversational" type moralistic novel about a good little girl converting a selfish one to her god-fearing ways with the habits, behaviour and differences between them of various insects being brought into the narrative.

A. L. O. E. (MRS TUCKER), *Fairy frisket; or peeps at insect life*. London. Thomas Nelson & Sons 1893 8vo. [180 × 125] pp 198, Illustrated. +10 pp adverts. A series of fairy tales involving children and insects of various sorts. Could the butterflies and moths being assembled at "Violet Dell" presage the use of UV light?

- A.L.O.E. (MRS TUCKER), *Wings & stings: a tale for the young*. London. Thomas Nelson & Sons 1870 sm. 8vo. [170 × 118] pp 108 + 4 pp adverts. 6 Engraved Plates. A tale about children and their inter-actions with animals, mainly honeybees. Moralistic about being kind to all animals.
- ANON [SELINA MARTIN], *A sister's stories*. Kirkby Lonsdale. Arthur Foster & L. B. Seely & Sons. 1833 sm. 8vo. [111 × 177] pp 207, 29 Engraved Plates, not numbered. This is an elementary treatise on insects with some brief descriptions and habits told in a question and answer style and interspersed, as usual for the period, with poetry. The Plates are all of insects.
- ANON., *The butterfly birthday book*. London. Marcus Ward nd (1886) sq. 16mo. [110 × 85]. Five days per page on the left with poetic excerpts while the right has the vacant space to write in birthday dates. The whole exquisitely illustrated with colourful butterflies and honeysuckle; the endpapers with gold butterflies on a blue background.
- ANON., *An exchange list of British Lepidoptera*. London. Abraham Kingdom & Co. nd (1880's?) sm. 8vo. [180 × 125] pp 14.
- ANON., *The four little wise ones*. London. James Nisbet & Co. 1853 sq. sm. 8vo. [150 × 120] pp 427, 4 Plates. This is a children's book written by a Lady and deals with the ant, the locust, the spider and the coney in an informative, but largely anecdotal way, quoting from other authors, including Charles Darwin.
- ANON., *Who were the first weavers*. London, T. Nelson & Sons 1876 16mo. [160 × 100] pp 72. cold Frontispiece. Illustrations, Describes the first weavers who were, of course, spiders and silkworms.
- ANON., *Who was the first paper maker?* London, T. Nelson & Sons 1881 16mo. [160 × 100] pp 72. 1 cold frontispiece. Illustrations. Describes the lifehistory and habits of the first paper makers, otherwise wasps.
- ANON., *Tiny workers; or, man's little rivals in the animal world*. London. Thomas Nelson and Sons. nd (1880's) 12mo [155 × 105] pp 137 + 6 pp adverts. 11 Plates, mainly of insects. Describes various insects that make nests, wasps, termites; that spin, spiders; weave, such as caterpillar spinning its cocoon; masquerade as something else, mantids.
- ANON., *Our ponds and our fields and what may be seen there*. London. Frederick Warne & Sons nd (1850?) 12mo. [155 × 111] pp 140, illustrated, cold. frontispiece. Mother takes her children rambling and on the way they ask about the mainly insect life they come across and she explains their life-history and habits.
- BADCOCK, JOSES, *Poems, by Joses Badcock*. Vol I Annats, or, first fruits of reflection. London. James Paul nd (184??) 8vo. [212 × 132] pp xvi + [1] + 212. Poems on various natural history disciplines. pages 85-118 are on entomology. ("Twas early in the rural month of May / I viewed the fly that scarcely lives a day / so near the margin of a rippling stream / a ray of light elanced its transient beam / brought into animation seemed to fly / as if twas revelling in extacy / now as the eve emerged her glimmering ray / and your ephemera roved out to play.")
- BARRETT, CHARLES G., *Labelling list of British Macrolepidoptera as arranged in "Lepidoptera of the British isles."* London. Lovell Reeve & Co. Ltd. 1900 8vo.[215 × 140] pp 16 single-sided.
- BATES, H. W. & CLARKE, REV H., *Descriptions of new species of Phytophaga, being the appendix to the catalogue of Phytophaga by the Rev. Hamlet Clarke*. Williams and Norgate 1865. 8vo. [225 × 140] pp 88.

- BIRKS, J., *British Lepidoptera, omitting Tineae except Epigraphiidae and Psychidae*. York. J. Birks 1863 8vo. [220 × 140]. single double-sided folded sheet pp 4 Clearly intended as an “exchange” list.
- BUTLER, E. A., *Silkworms* (Young collector series) London. George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 1929 (1887) 8vo. [180 × 125] pp 100, 36 Figs. Deals mainly with the history, anatomy, rearing and diseases of *Bombyx mori*, with a few notes on other silkworm species.
- CLARKE, REV HAMLET, *A catalogue of the Phytophaga. [Coleoptera, Pseudotetramera]. Part I*. London. Williams and Norgate 1866. 8vo. [225 × 140] pp 50.
- CROTCH, G. B., *List of all the Coleoptera described A.D. 1756-1821 referred to their modern genera*. Cambridge (no publisher or printer stated) 1871 8vo. [220 × 140] pp 24.
- CROWTHER, HENRY, *Label list of British Lepidoptera* Truro. Lake & Lake nd (1880's) 8vo. [210 × 135] pp (10); iv-xviii. 1 plate. Pages iv-xviii printed one side only of paper. Deals only with the butterflies.
- DAWSON, J. F. & CLARK, HAMLET. *A rearrangement of the nomenclature and synonymy of those species of British Coleoptera which are comprised under the sections Geodephaga, Hydradephaga and part of Philhydrida*. London. Printed by Taylor & Francis 1856 8vo. [215 × 135] pp 12 single-sided.
- DOUGLAS, J. W. & SCOTT, JOHN, *A list of British Hemiptera, (Heteroptera) with allied species found in northern and central Europe which may be expected to occur in Britain*. London. Printed by E. Newman 1862. 8vo. [210 × 135] pp 16 single-sided.
- G. L. M., *Spider spinings or, adventures in insect-land. A tale for the young*. London. George Routledge & Sons nd (188?) 16mo. [100 × 160] pp 178, 2 Plates + 2 pp adverts. A curious mix of natural history, mainly entomological, but also including witnessing ferreting for rabbits, as told by a spider describing his adventures.
- HUMPHREYS, JENNET, *Insect ways on summer days: in garden, forest, field, and stream*. London. Blackie & Son, Ltd. 1887 8vo. [185 × 125] pp 192, frontispiece & illustrations, + 32 pp adverts. A book for children describing various life-histories and habits of a number of insects interspersed with a little poetry.
- JOHNS, BENNET GEORGE, *Among the butterflies. A book for young collectors*. London. Isbister & Co. 1891 8vo. [185 × 125] pp 198 + 2 pp advert frontispiece + 12 Plates. An elementary account and descriptions of our butterflies. The figures on the Plates uncoloured and of poor quality.
- KOLLAR, VINCENT, (translated by J. & M. LOUDON). *A treatise on insects injurious to gardeners, foresters, & farmer. With notes by J. O. Westwood*. London. William Smith 1840 16mo [175 × 115] pp 377, illustrated + 2 pp adverts.
- LEMON, F. C., *The butterflies of Switzerland* (Translated from Prof. Frey's *Die Lepidopteren der Schweiz*). Plymouth, James H Keys 1896 (Privately printed) imp. 8vo. [240 × 156] pp 44.
- LOVELL, KATE R., *Nature's wonder-workers: being some short life-histories in the insect world*. London: Cassell & Co. Ltd. 1890 8vo. [185 × 125]. pp viii; 9-285, 18pp adverts. Text illustrations, some full page. The text explains the life-history of many Orders of insects, their usefulness, habits, the friendly and beautiful, the nasty and annoying and their interactions with each other. Delightfully illustrated with typical Victorian engravings. How would anyone today come across Surrey lanes “quite illuminated with myriads of tiny sparks emitted by insects” (i.e. glow-worms). Sad this, but thankfully we do not also see cattle and horses panicked by myriads of bot- or gad-flies!

- MAJOR, JOSHUA, *A treatise on the insects most prevalent on fruit trees and garden produce*. London. Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, and Green 1829. 8vo. [215 × 135] pp 302 Gives an account of pest insects, as far as was known two hundred years ago and primitive and sometimes amusing (to us today that is) methods of combating them.
- NEWPORT, GEORGE, *Observations on the anatomy, habits and economy of Athalia centifoliae, the sawfly of the turnip*. London. Printed for the Entomological Society 1838. 8vo. [215 × 140] pp 32 1 Plate. The Prize-winning essay of the Society for 1837.
- ORMEROD, ELEANOR A., *Guide to methods of insect life; and prevention & remedy of insect ravage*. London. Simpkin Marshall & Co. 1884 8vo. [189 × 120] pp 168, illustrated. Describes the various insects and some of their habits that in the 19th century were considered pests. These include Deaths-head and Eyed Hawk-moths, Buff-tip and Lobster moth, Musk and Sexton beetles.
- ORMEROD, ELEANOR A., *A textbook of agricultural entomology*. London: Simkin Marshal, Hamilton, Kent & Co. 1892. 8vo. [180 × 120] pp viii, 168, Illustrated. Describes the life-histories and habits and damage caused by many actual and potential pest species.
- PARRY, MAJOR F. J. SYDNEY, *Catalogus Coleopterorum Lucanoidum*. London. E W Janson. editio tertia 1875 8vo. [220 × 140] pp 29.
- SAUNDERS, EDWARD, *Species of the genus Buprestis of Linneus described previous to 1830*. London. John van Voorst. 1870 8vo. [220 × 140] pp37.
- SHARP, W. E., *The classification of Coleoptera: historically considered*. Neither publisher or printer stated (Privately printed?). nd (189?) 8vo. [200 × 130] pp 21.
- SIMPSON, EDWARD, *Insect lives as told by themselves*. London. RTS nd (189?) 8vo. [185 × 125] pp 128 with 123 illustrations, some full page. Fairly extensive account of the life histories of various insects such as wasps, Goat Moth, Earwig, Ladybirds, Water boatmen, Gnats, Stylops.
- SOMERVILLE, WILLIAM, *Farm and garden insects*. London, Macmillan & Co. 1897 sm. 8vo. pp 126, 46 Figs
- WALKER, FRANCIS, *A list of the Hymenoptera collected by J K Lord Esq. in Egypt, in the neighbourhood of the red sea and in Arabia with descriptions of the new species*. London. E W Jansen 1871 8vo. [210 × 135] pp 59.
- WALKER, FRANCIS., *Catalogue of Hemiptera Heteroptera in the British Museum – Supplement*. London. E W Jansen 1873 8vo. [210 × 135] pp 63.
- WALKER, FRANCIS. *Characters of undescribed Lepidoptera Heterocera*. London. E W Jansen 1869 8vo. [210 × 135] pp 112.
- WALKER, FRANCIS, *Catalogue of Hemiptera Heteroptera in the British Museum. Supplement*. London. E W Jansen 1873 8vo. [210 × 135] pp 63.
- WALKER, FRANCIS, *Notes on Diptera and list of species. First series*. London. E W Jansen 1874 8vo. [210 × 135] pp 37.
- WATERHOUSE, G. R., *A list of the British species of Aleocharidae [London. Van Voorst 1857]*. 8vo. [220 × 140] pp 6, printed one side of paper only.
- BRIAN O. C. GARDINER, 2 Highfield Avenue, Cambridge CB4 2AL.